commenced construction on their 25 MW power plant in Haryana and 107 MW power plant in Kerala respetively. Other liquid fuel based power projects would commence construction on achieving financial closure.

Revision of Power Tariff in the States

76. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the State Governments to make upward revision of power tariff to realise the generation costs so that Boards are able to make profit and achieve the statutory three per cent rate of return; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Government has impressed upon the States, the need to rationalise tariffs in order that the statutory returns are made by Boards.

(b) Most of the States have initiated steps to rationalise power tariffs as suggested by Government of India.

Enhancement of Power Tariff

77. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance the power tariff;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would stop concessions of the power tariff given to the rich peasants and landlords; and

(d) whether Government would issue such direction to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Power tariffs for the consumers are fixed by the State Governments/SEBs under the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

Losses to Electricity Boards

78. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding losses of Electricity Boards;

(b) what steps have been taken by government to reduce the losses; and

(c) whether Government would issue instructions to stop concessions granted to the rich peasants and landlords in their power tariffs by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A statement indicating the profit and loss (with subsidy and without subsidy as booked in the accounts) of the 17SEBs is enclosed in the statement. (*See* below)

(b) State Governments/State Electricity Boards have been advised, from time to time, to take remedial measures such as setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalisation of retail tariff, private sector participation in distribution, improvement in the management practices of SEBs, reduction in transmission & distribution losses etc.

(c) The State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, to be set up by the State Governments, are to take up the matters like tariff fixation for various categories of consumers including rich peasants and landlords, transparent policies regarding subsidies etc.